

Heinrich Hermann Freytag

Founded/Born

1759 - 1811

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Heinrich Hermann Freytag (born around April 15, 1759, in Hamburg; died April 14, 1811) was a German-Dutch organ builder. As a student of Albertus Antonius Hinsz, he continued the Arp Schnitger tradition in the Netherlands at a high level and was one of the most significant Dutch organ builders around 1800.

Freytag was the son of a cabinetmaker from Württemberg. Around 1784, he apprenticed with Hinsz in Groningen, who ran Schnitger's workshop there. After Hinsz's death in 1785, Freytag partnered with Frans Casper Snitger, the grandson of Arp Schnitger and Hinsz's stepson, to run the workshop under the name "Snitger & Freytag." In 1793, Freytag married Hiskia Hornemann (1765–1817), a widow from Groningen. Of their ten children, five reached adulthood. To allow his wife to continue her business, Freytag joined the innkeepers' guild and gained small citizenship in Groningen. When Snitger died in 1799, Freytag took over the workshop, leading North Dutch organ building into a new flourishing period. He maintained high craftsmanship and adhered to Arp Schnitger's tradition. Compared to Hinsz, Freytag's registers had a more elegant sound. His early works were visually influenced by Schnitger, but later designs showed increasing classical influences. In the 1800s, he built several one-manual cabinet organs with six stops and no pedal (e.g., in Lellens, Anloo, and Doesburg).

After Freytag's death in 1811, his employees temporarily continued the business under his widow's leadership since his children were still young. In 1817, the business was transferred to his sons Herman Eberhard Freytag (1796–1869) and Barthold Joachim (1799–1829). Herman Eberhard also worked in Germany, repairing Hinsz organs in Leer and Weener. Herman Eberhard's son Willem Fredrik Freytag (1825–1861) was intended as the next successor but died before his father. After his daughter Jantje Freytag's death in 1862, Herman Eberhard retired and sold the firm in 1863 to the family of Dirk Lohman, who might have been Freytag's student. Later, the companies became competitors.

Sources

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Hermann_Freytag

Noordwolde, Kerk van Noordwolde

Noordwolderweg, 9784 PC Noordwolde, Netherlands



Builder	H. H. Freytag
Year	ca. 1802
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	20
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Sampleset	<u>Sonus Paradisi</u>

Description

The church of St. Sebastian in Noordwolde is known to have had an organ as early as the sixteenth century, but nothing is known about its layout. In 1621, an extensive restoration of the church took place, including the organ. When a new tower was built in 1639 the space between the nave and the tower was used for the organ's bellows - which are still found there today.

In 1658, a new organ was built by Hendrik Huis, who reused a lot of the old pipes. The organ then had 3 manuals and 27 stops. Arp Schnitger himself performed maintenance tasks of this organ in 1695.

In 1802, Heinrich Hermann Freytag rebuilt the organ, reusing most of the older material, resulting in an instrument with 2 manuals, pedal and 20 stops.

In 1833, Antoni Lohman performed a further rebuild of the instrument. Three stops were replaced, the instrument was revoiced, and the tuning changed. For the next 170 years, the organ was not subject to any major alteration.

In 2004-2006 the organ was restored by the Mense Ruiter company, retaining its 1833 state. It is a truly historical instrument with most of its pipework dating back centuries. Its character is created by a rich principal chorus, a wide variety of flutes, a Vox Humana enclosed in a wooden box, a 19th-century Viola da Gamba (a string stop), and a wooden hammer "Schel" to give the signal to the calcant. The Basuin 16' is believed to be the oldest surviving sixteen-foot pedal reed stop in the world. The temperament is slightly unequal, reconstructed after the Lohman's pattern.

Stoplist/Disposition

Hoofdwerk	Rugwerk	Pedaal
Praestant 8'	Holpijp 8'	Bourdon 16'
Roerfluit 8'	Praestant 4'	Praestant 8'
Viola di Gamba 8'	Roerfluit 4'	Octaaf 4'
Octaaf 4'	Octaaf 2'	Bazuin 16'
Fluit 4'	Speelfluit 2'	Cornet 4'
Fluit 2'	Flageolet 1'	
Mixtuur III-VI	Vox Humana 8'	
Trompet 8'		

Additional: RP/HW bass, RP/HW descant, HW/P, Tremulant (whole organ)

Sources

<https://www.sonusparadisi.cz/en/organs/netherlands/noordwolde.html>